

Amesbury Rural District Council.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1905.

Shrewton, Wilts.

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith submit my Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of your District for the year ending 1905.

During the fifty-two weeks of the year the births registered were 267, viz., 125 males and 142 females, and during the same period 103 deaths were registered, but from this number 12 must be deducted as occurring among non-residents, leaving the nett total for the district 91, this give a natural increase of 176 to the Union.

The birth-rate per 1,000 of the population (estimated by the census of 1901 to be 8,268) gives 32·2 as against 28·4 for the year 1904. The death-rate is 12·4 as against 12·9 for the same period, but as 12 deaths were among non-residents the nett-rate for the year is 11·0. In the annexed tables will be found the estimated population of each year, for the last ten years, also the births and deaths, with those of deaths under one year of age.

Of the 103 deaths registered, 14 were over 60 and under 70, 13 over 70 and under 80, 9 over 80 and upwards, two reaching the age of 92.

There were 20 deaths of infants under one year of age, making the infant mortality for the year, 74·9 per 1,000 births registered.

From the principal Zymotic diseases 9 deaths are to be attributed to Whooping-cough, which was very prevalent in the district during the latter end of the year, and owing to this outbreak, it was deemed advisable to close the National School at Shrewton for two months, and at Orcheston for two weeks. There were 5 deaths from Phthisis, which gives a rate for this disease of ·6 per 1,000, as against ·7 for the year 1904. From other tubercular diseases 4 deaths, from Cancer 2, which is an improvement, as 14 deaths were registered from this disease last year; from Bronchitis 3, from Pneumonia 6, from Heart Disease 19, from Accidents 3, from Suicide 1, and from Murder 6, all other causes 29.

There were 8 cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, viz., 3 cases of Scarlet Fever and 1 of Erysipelas, in the Amesbury district; 2 cases of Scarlet Fever and 1 of Erysipelas in the Orcheston district; and 1 case of Scarlet Fever in the Winterbourne district. They were all cases of a mild type, and probably of sporadic origin. The necessary precautions were taken and the disease did not spread.

I have analysed samples of water taken from the following Villages, viz.:—Shrewton, Tilshead, Orcheston, Winterbourne Stoke and Durrington, which were all good and abundant. In the Village of Amesbury 89 samples of water were taken and chemically examined by Dr. Tubb-Thomas, whose report was not quite satisfactory, as sewage pollution, to a certain extent, was found, but in the absence of all water-borne diseases in this Village, and indeed in the whole district for many years past, I cannot condemn the water as unfit for domestic use. As you are aware, Amesbury is rapidly approaching Urban conditions, and it will no doubt, at some future time, be necessary to have a Public water-supply, but as a sewage disposal scheme is to be adopted, the necessity for this will be less urgent, as the further



pollution of the sub-soil will be stayed. All the wells badly situated, *i.e.*, Farm-yards, etc., the users are advised to boil the water.

The streams and water-courses are all in good order.

During the year I have inspected the Slaughter-houses and Dairies which are generally satisfactory, also the Bake-houses which are in good order, kept white-washed and clean. None of them are underground, and the ventilation is sufficient. There are no Factories in the District.

Twenty-eight houses have been built during the year, principally in the Villages of Durrington, Amesbury, and Bulford, all have up-to-date requirements. Seventy-six houses were cleansed and lime-washed, and 5 made fit for habitation. Two were closed as being unfit for habitation. Seven cases of over-crowding occurred and were abated.

The Burial Grounds are in good order, and their area is sufficient.

In conclusion, I may add, that the District is improving in every way, and at present is remarkably healthy.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES EDDOWES,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TABLE I.—AMESBURY RURAL DISTRICT.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1905 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Net Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*			Number.	Rate.*
1895	7111	171	24.0	13	76.0	108	15.1	6	...	108	15.1
1896	7175	166	23.9	16	96.3	96	13.3	1	...	96	13.3
1897	7234	159	21.9	19	119.4	112	15.4	7	...	112	15.4
1898	7289	145	19.8	8	55.1	86	11.7	11	3	83	11.3
1899	7357	170	23.1	13	76.4	99	13.4	11	3	96	13.0
1900	7417	162	23.8	27	166.6	134	18.0	8	10	124	16.5
1901	8268	175	21.1	9	51.4	94	11.3	13	4	90	10.8
1902	8357	194	23.4	12	61.8	98	11.8	6	13	85	10.2
1903	8462	214	25.8	9	42.0	100	12.0	20	12	88	10.6
1904	8574	235	28.4	12	51.0	107	12.9	25	12	95	11.4
Averages for years 1895-1904		179	23.5	13	79.6	103	13.4	10	5	97	12.7
1905	8720	267	32.2	20	74.9	103	12.4	20	12	91	11.0

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres
(exclusive of area
covered by water) } 63.453

Total population at all ages, 8,268
Number of inhabited houses, 1,668
Average number of persons per house, 4.95 } At
Census of 1901.

TABLE II.—Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1905 and previous years.

YEAR.	NAMES OF LOCALITIES.											
	Amesbury.				Oreheston.				Winterbourne.			
	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1895 ...	3423	78	57	3	1945	48	31	6	1743	45	26	4
1896 ...	3456	86	41	7	1963	43	25	3	1756	37	30	6
1897 ...	3485	68	56	10	1983	51	29	5	1766	40	27	4
1898 ...	3500	66	49	5	2003	42	23	2	1784	37	14	1
1899 ...	3527	78	51	3	2022	47	28	3	1808	45	20	7
1900 ...	3547	74	64	16	2039	46	37	5	1825	42	33	6
1901 ...	4470	84	49	4	1875	48	19	1	1923	43	26	4
1902 ...	4514	103	50	3	1901	48	26	5	1942	43	22	4
1903 ...	4575	120	40	6	1920	43	27	1	1967	51	21	2
1904 ...	4657	139	54	4	1943	49	20	5	1995	47	21	3
Averages of Years 1895 to 1904		89	51	6		46	26	3		43	24	4
1905 ...	4757	167	52	13	1974	56	23	5	2022	44	16	2

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1905 in the Amesbury Rural District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH DISTRICT.		
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Amesbury.	Oreheston.	Winterbourne.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and up-wards.			
Erysipelas ...	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	...
Scarlet Fever ...	6	...	...	4	2	...	...	3	2	1
TOTALS ...	8	...	...	4	3	...	1	4	3	1

Isolation Hospital—None.

TABLE IV.—Causes of, and Ages at, Death during year 1905 in the Amesbury Rural District.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Deaths at all Ages of "Residents" belonging to Localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District.			Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Public Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up-wards.	Amesbury.	Oreheston.	Winterbourne.	
Scarlet fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	1
Whooping-cough ...	9	6	3	...	...	...	...	4	5	...	...
Fever—Enteric ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Enteritis ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary tuberculosis) ...	5	...	...	...	1	3	1	2	2	1	1
Other tubercular diseases	3	1	1	1	...	...	...	2	1	...	1
Cancer, malignant disease	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	...
Bronchitis ...	3	...	1	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	...
Pneumonia ...	6	3	...	...	1	1	1	3	2	1	4
Premature birth ...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	2
Heart diseases ...	19	...	...	...	...	5	14	7	7	5	3
Accidents ...	3	1	...	...	...	2	...	3	...	...	2
Suicides ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Murder ...	6	1	2	3	...	...	...	6	...	...	...
All other causes ...	29	3	2	...	3	6	15	18	5	6	5
All causes ...	91	20	9	4	5	19	34	52	23	16	20

TABLE V.—*Infantile Mortality during the year 1905 in the Amesbury Rural District.*

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Under 1 week.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	4-5 Months.	7-8 Months.	9-10 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes.	Certified	...	...	6	1	1	7	1	2	2	20
	Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Infectious Diseases.	Whooping-cough	...	...	...	...	1	3	1	1	...	6
Diarrhœal Diseases.	Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Wasting Diseases.	Premature Birth	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
	Congenital Defects	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	3
	Other Causes	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Murder	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
				6	1	1	7	1	2	2	20

Births in the year—legitimate, 257 ; illegitimate, 10.

*Summary of Work done in Sanitary Inspector's Department of the Amesbury Rural District during the year ending 31st December, 1905.**Prevention of Infectious Disease under direction of Medical Officer of Health.*

No. of Cases inquired into	...	10
No. of Houses disinfected and cleansed	...	6
No. of Patients removed to Hospital	...	Nil.
Lots of Clothing, Bedding, etc., disinfected or destroyed	...	Nil.
Cases of Illegal Exposure reported	...	Nil.

Houses.

No. erected (if information obtainable)	...	28
No. made fit for habitation	...	5
No. Closed as unfit for habitation	...	2
No. Cleansed and Linewashed	...	76

Overcrowding.

No. of Cases abated	...	7
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House Drains.

No. Laid or re-laid	...	9
No. Cleansed, Trapped, and Ventilated	...	4
No. of Defective Waste Pipes rectified	...	Nil.
No. of Insanitary Lavatories, Sinks, and Urinals rectified	...	Nil.
No. of Dumb-wells rectified	...	Nil.

Water Closets.

No. of additional W.C.'s provided	...	Nil.
No. Repaired, Ventilated, and supplied with Flush Cisterns	...	3

Privies and Ashpits.

No. of additional Privies and Ashpits provided	...	36
No. converted to W.C.'s or Slop-Closets	...	Nil.
No. converted to Pail-Closets	...	17
No. Repaired	...	12

Water Supplies.

No. of Wells sunk	...	16
No. of Wells cleansed and repaired	...	14
No. of Wells closed as polluted	...	Nil.
No. of Houses supplied from Water-works (during year)	...	Nil.
No. of Samples taken for analysis	...	108

Slaughter-houses.

No. registered or licensed	...	Nil.
No. regularly inspected	...	5
No. cleansed and repaired	...	Nil.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

No. of Persons engaged in Milk Trade now on Register and under supervision	...	36
No. of Contraventions of Acts, Orders, and Bye-laws dealt with	...	Nil.
No. of Infected Milk Supplies reported by the Inspector	...	Nil.

Factories and Workshops and Bakehouses.

No. under inspection	...	16
No. certified for Lime-washing by Inspector	...	3
No. of Insanitary Conditions dealt with as Nuisances	...	2
No. employing "Young Persons," etc., reported to Medical Officer of Health	...	Nil.

Food.

No. of Seizures as unfit for Consumption	...	Nil.
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Animals kept so as to be a Nuisance.

No. of Cases of Removal on Notice	...	2
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Accumulation of Offensive Refuse.

No. of Removals	...	10
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Clerical Work.

No. of Notices served	...	18
No. of Notices complied with	...	15
No. of Notices Outstanding	...	3

(Signed) JOHN T. HUXHAM.